

Claims:

1. An autonomous system, comprising:

5 two or more areas, wherein each area includes a router; and

 a probe logically connected to the router in each area and configured to receive link state routing protocol from the router in each area.

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2. The autonomous system of claim 1, wherein the probe receives link state routing protocol data when the router in each area floods the link state routing protocol data throughout the autonomous system.

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3. The autonomous system of claim 1, wherein the probe receives link state routing protocol data when the probe polls the router in each area.

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4. The system of claim 1, wherein the link state routing protocol data is comprised of data describing a state and a cost of each link, router, and network within an area.

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5. A system for monitoring link state routing protocol data, comprising:

 two or more areas to be monitored, wherein each area includes a router; and

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 a probe logically connected to the router in each area and configured to receive link state routing protocol from the router in each area.

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6. The system of claim 5, wherein the probe receives link state routing protocol data when the router in each area floods the link state routing protocol data throughout the autonomous system.

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7. The autonomous system of claim 5, wherein the probe receives link state routing protocol data when the probe polls the router in each area.

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8. The system of claim 5, wherein the link state routing protocol data is comprised of data describing a state and a cost of each link, router, and network within an area.

9. The system of claim 5, wherein the two or more areas are included in a single autonomous system.

10. The system of claim 5, wherein at least one area to be monitored is included in a first autonomous system and at least one area to be monitored is included in a second autonomous system.

11. A method for the centralized collection of link state routing protocol data, comprising:

selecting a router in an area to collect the link state routing protocol data from, wherein the link state routing protocol data is collected from two or more areas;

establishing a logical connection with the selected router in each area; and

creating a connection between the selected router in each area and a probe to allow the probe to receive the link state routing protocol data from the selected router in each area.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein establishing a logical connection with the selected router comprises:

configuring a sub-interface on the probe for each area; and

configuring an IP tunnel from an interface on each selected router to the sub-interface on the probe.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein establishing a logical connection with the selected router comprises:

configuring an interface on the probe for each area; and

creating a link from each selected router to the probe.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein creating a connection between each selected router and a probe comprises:

establishing an adjacency between each selected router and the probe.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein creating a connection between each selected router and a probe comprises:

5 establishing a partial adjacency between each selected router and the probe, wherein the probe only receives link state routing protocol data.

10 16. The method of claim 11, wherein the link state routing protocol data is comprised of data describing a state and a cost associated with each link, router, and network within an area.

15 17. The method of claim 11, wherein creating a connection between the selected router in each area and a probe to allow the probe to receive the link state routing protocol data from the selected router in each area comprises:

20 creating a route between the selected router in each area and a probe to allow the probe to receive the link state routing protocol data from the selected router in each area.

25 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the route between the selected router in each area and the probe comprises a single host route.